

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 SIL-01 LAB-06 USIA-15 DRC-01

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R 051200Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 109

C O N F I D E N T I A L 2516

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, ELAB, CE

SUBJ: SRI LANKA TRADE UNIONIST AT PSI CONGRESS

REF: A) STATE 178714; B) STATE 196178; C) COLOMBO 2143

1. VADIVEL HAS NEVER LEFT SRI LANKA. WE ASSUMED HE HAD DEPARTED TO FRG AND PSI CONGRESS ON BASIS HIS APPLICATION FOR US VISA DAY BEFORE SCHEDULED DEPARTE SEPT 15, PREPAID TICKET, AND FORMAL LETTER OF INVITATION. CWC PRESIDENT THONDAMAN HAS SINCE TOLD US MDFA'S VERBAL ASSURANCE OF GSL EXIT PERMIT FOR VADIVEL WAS WITHDRAWN AT SPECIFIC INSTRUCTION OF PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE ON GROUND VADIVEL IS NOT PUBLIC SERVANT AND THUS SHOULD NOT ATTEND PSI-SPONSORED AFFAIR. CWC APPEAL TO REVERSE DECISION WAS DENIED OCT 3.

2. THIS DEVELOPMENT, COUPLED WITH DE ALWIS APPROACH TO DEPT ON VADIVEL AND GREAT DIFFICULTY EMBASSY HAD IN SECURING APPROVAL FOR THONDAMANEVTRAVEL, ILLUSTRATES GSL'S POLITICAL SENSITIVITY RE TRADE UNION EXCHANGE INVOLVING CWC. WE DO NOT NORMALLY CHECK WITH GSL ON PRIVATE-CITIZEN GRANTEES PICKED UP OUTSIDE SRI LANKA BECAUSE WE DO NOT WANT TO GIVE IT VETO OVER US IVP GRANTS TO PRIVATE CEYLONER ABROAD. (WE DO GET CLEARANCE ON GSL EMPLOYEES ANYWHERE AND, AS NOTED COLOMBO 2171, WE ARE OBLIGED TO DO SO FOR ALL CATEGORIES WITHIN THE COUNTRY.) WE HAVE THEREFORE NOT DISCUSSED SANDERASEKERAS NOMINATION WITH GSL. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION, HOWEVER, TO DEPTS INFORMING DE ALWIS OF SANDERASEKERA PARTICIPATION IN AFL-CIO

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SEMINAR.

3. IN PRINCIPLE, WE AGREE ON USEFULNESS OF KEEPING SRI LANKA
EMBASSY INFORMED OF CEYLONENE TRADE UNIONIST TRAVEL IN WHICH
USG IS INTERESTED. WE WOULD SUGGEST SUCH BRIEFING BE GENERAL,
HOWEVER, AND GIVE DUE WEIGHT TO PROBLEMS CREATED BY
POLITICAL ORIENTATION OR WFTU AFFILIATION OF MOST CEYLONENE
UNIONS, AND FACT THAT CWC IS ONLY CEYLONENE UNION
AFFILIATED BY ICFTU.

VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

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